

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 PM-03 INR-10 DRC-01 RSC-01 /024 W

----- 040092

O R 080835Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4451

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 299

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE S/PRS AND EA/P

CAMBODIAN SITUATIONER

1. AFTER TWO DAYS OF HARD FIGHTING IN THE AREA WEST OF PHNOM PENH, A TEMPORARY LULL HAS DEVELOPED MARKED ONLY BY OCCASIONAL ARTILLERY FIRE BY GOVERNMENT FORCES. A FANK SPOKESMAN SAID AT NOON TUESDAY THAT THE ENEMY LOST 261 MEN KILLED IN ACTION SUNDAY AND MONDAY WHILE GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES WERE LIGHT TO MODERATE AND MOST OF THOSE IN THE WOUNDED CATEGORY.

2. COMMUNIST GUNNERS CONTINUED TO FIRE THEIR 122MM ROCKETS INTO PHNOM PENH IN THE PAST 24 HOURS. MONDAY NIGHT, ONE OF THE HUGH, 100-1B ROCKETS LANDED IN THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE OLYMPIC STADIUM IN THE HEART OF THE CITY CAUSING NO DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES. ANOTHER ROCKET FIRED AT THE SAME TIME HIT A CIVILIAN MEDICAL DISPENSARY NEAR THE WATERFRONT WITH NO

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CASUALTIES AND ONLY LIGHT DAMAGE REPORTED. ANOTHER

ROCKET FIRED EARLIER IN THE EVENING LANDED HARMLESSLY IN A LAKE TO THE NORTH OF THE CITY. A REPORT NOT YET CONFIRMED SAYS THAT TWO MORE ROCKETS HIT POCHENTONG AIRPORT EARLY TUESDAY ALSO CAUSING NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE.

3. FIGHTING CONTINUED AT A LOW LEVEL ACROSS THE REST OF THE COUNTRY WITH TAKEO REPORTING ATTACKS BY FIRE AND GROUND ASSAULTS WITH ALL LINES HOLDING FIRM. GROUND ASSAULTS WERE ALSO MADE AGAINST GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AT PREKLUONG AND PREK TAMAERK ON THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG BUT WERE ALL REPULSED. OTHER SHELLING ATTACKS WERE REPORTED FROM KOMPONG CHAM, SVAY RIENG AND SOUTH OF PREY VENG IN THE PAST 24 HOURS.

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